

The University Players,  
Department of Theatre and Drama,  
present

# August Snow



Trueblood Theatre  
October 11 - 21, 1990

# August Snow

by Reynolds Price

*Director:* Richard Klautsch

*Scenic Designer:* Susan Chute

*Costume Designer:* John Gutoskey

*Lighting Designer:* Randall Zaibek

*Voice and Dialect Coach:* Ann Klautsch

*Sound Coordinators:* Clint Bajakian and Jamie Baker

*Stage Manager:* Beth Krynicki

## Cast

**Neal Avery** ..... Matthew Letscher

**Taw Avery** ..... Christine Fenno

**Roma Avery** ..... Janet Clarkson

**Porter Farwell** ..... David Haig

**Genevieve Slappy** ..... Jennifer SayGan

August, 1937; North Carolina

There will be one intermission.

Used by permission, Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Unauthorized use of cameras or recording devices in this theatre is strictly forbidden. In everyone's interest, latecomers will not be seated until a suitable break or scene change.

Children must have a ticket and be at least three years old to attend. Children unable to sit quietly through a performance may be asked to leave.

## Notes from the Director

Reynolds Price believes in the act of writing as the highest form of self-examination. By altering the experiences and characters from his own life just enough to, create remarkable fiction, he brings them into a sharper and more comprehensible focus. His introspection is generous and courageous, for it centers on the shifting complexities and hazards of human relationships.

*August Snow* is not a play of how two people can meet and fall in love, or of how they pursue the miracle of eternal happiness together. It is a far more eloquent statement that Price seeks to offer. This is simply a story of how a young couple makes it through one particular day and earns the right to discover that there is no more difficult a task, no greater pain, no larger act of will, than that of giving yourself to someone else with the hope of love. Only sometimes do we succeed. The challenge lies in what Price has learned from his own work, a part of which follows:

"The world exists. It is not yourself.  
Plunge in it for healing, blessed  
exhaustion, and the risk of warmth."

It is a glorious truth to share.

—Richard Klautsch

## About the Playwright

Reynolds Price was born in Macon, North Carolina, in 1933. After undergraduate studies at Duke University and graduate work as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, he joined the Duke University faculty in 1958, where he remains James B. Duke Professor of English. His published writing career began in 1962 when his first novel, *A Long and Happy Life*, won the William Faulkner Award. Since that time, he has published over 19 works in 16 languages, including the award-winning *Kate Vaiden* and his most recent novel, *The Tongues of Angels*. Although he has written in all genres of literature, Mr. Price did not begin his playwrighting career until 1978, when *Early Dark* was first performed at New York's WPA Theatre. In 1984, Mr. Price was diagnosed with cancer of the spine. After treatment and surgery, he returned to writing with *August Snow*, the first in a trilogy of plays entitled *New Music*. *August Snow* was first staged at Hendrix College in Arkansas, and the entire trilogy was performed by the Cleveland Play House in the fall of 1989.

## About the Cast

**Janet Clarkson** (*Roma Avery*)

Musical Theatre – senior – Bethesda, MD

**Christine Fenno** (*Taw Avery*)

Musical Theatre – sophomore – South Milwaukee, WI

**David Haig** (*Porter Farwell*)

Theatre and Drama – senior – Ann Arbor, MI

**Matthew Letscher** (*Neal Avery*)

Theatre and Drama – junior – Grosse Pointe, MI

**Jennifer SayGan** (*Genevieve Slappy*)

Chinese/Asian Studies – senior – Hillsdale, MI

## About the Artists

**Susan Chute** (*Scenic Designer*)

❑ Scenic designer, *The Three Sisters*; *Onward, Onward, Onward*, University of Michigan

❑ Assistant lighting designer, *Night of the Iguana*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Into the Woods*, Broadway productions

❑ Lighting designer, *Don Pasquale*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Falstaff* (upcoming), School of Music Opera Theatre

**Ann Klautsch** (*Voice and Dialect Coach*)

❑ Assistant Professor of Voice and Acting, Department of Theatre and Drama

❑ Voice instructor, Wayne State University, Institute for Advanced Theatre Training (Harvard)

❑ Vocal coach, American Repertory Theatre (Boston), Attic Theatre, Michigan Renaissance Festival, and Michigan Opera Theatre

❑ Member, Voice and Speech Trainer's Association

**Richard Klautsch** (*Director*)

❑ Lecturer, Department of Theatre and Drama.

❑ Director, *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, Attic Theatre

❑ Director, *The Contrast*, *Talk Radio*, *The Inspector General*, University Players

❑ Torvald, *A Doll House*, Attic Theatre (upcoming production)



**Randall Zaibek** (*Lighting Designer*)

- ☐ Student, Department of Theatre and Drama
- ☐ Scenic designer, *In a Northern Landscape*, *Hair*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- ☐ Assistant lighting designer, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La Bohème*, *Don Pasquale*, School of Music Opera Theatre
- ☐ Electrician, Spoleto Festival USA, the Santa Fe Opera

University Players is composed of undergraduate students in the Department of Theatre and Drama. Scenery, costumes, props, and lighting were created by students and the staff of University Productions, the producing unit of the School of Music.

One man's search for identity . . .

## Joe Turner's Come and Gone

A moving drama by Pulitzer-Prize winner  
August Wilson (*Fences*, *The Piano Lesson*)

University Players  
Trueblood Theatre

Nov. 8-10, 15-17 at 8 PM

Nov. 11, 18 at 2 PM

Tickets: \$9 general admission  
Student seating \$5 with ID  
at the League Ticket Office  
To charge by phone: 764-0450



## SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Dean: Paul Boylan

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DRAMA

Chair: Erik Fredricksen

SCHOOL OF



MUSIC

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Carpenter: Don Watkins

Master Electrician: Henry Reynolds

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Scenic Painter: Katherine Isham

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Costume Shop Manager (Frieze): John Gutoskey

Cutter/Draper: Mark A. Goff

Costume Technicians: Vickie L. Sadler, Sue Hamilton

Sound Engineer: Roger Arnett

Sound Technician: Richard Strong

House Technicians: Ron Cypert, Jim Haven, Barry LaRue

Office Assistant: Elizabeth Richmond

## PRODUCTION CREWS

Assistant Stage Manager: Andrea Camick

Costumes: Karen Hopkins, Dawn Meyer, Deborah Yegerlehner

Lighting/Sound: Shannon Bigler, William Friedman, Alan McCandless, David Shafter, Randy Zaipek, and students of Theatre 250

Paint: Nicole Baker, Karin Block, Amy Heath\*, Elissa Kohen\*, Maria LaTour, Steven Lesser, Colleen Mooney, Ann Schneider, Seungil Suh, Peggy Trecker\*, Sara Toth\*, Christy Wright\*

Props: Rachel Dillard, Kate Linebaugh, Patrick McCarthy, Eecole Copen, Holly McNulty, Nicole Baker, Maria S. Arisso, Julie Strand, Bob Michael†

Sets: Students of Theatre 250

## RUNNING CREW

Lighting: Tobias Zimmerman

Sound: Eric Fehlauer

Props: Tanya Falk

Wardrobe: Greta Schnurstein, Melissa Zafarana

\*In fulfillment of coursework in the Department of Theatre and Drama.

†Supplied by IATSE Local 395